

*1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division*

# IRONSIDE

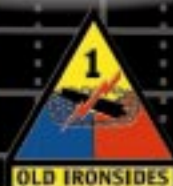
*America's Tank Division*



**Everyday heroes**

**1-35 prepares for Kosovo**

**Old Ironsides Museum**



**August 2000**





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## National Hispanic-American heritage Month Proclamation 2000

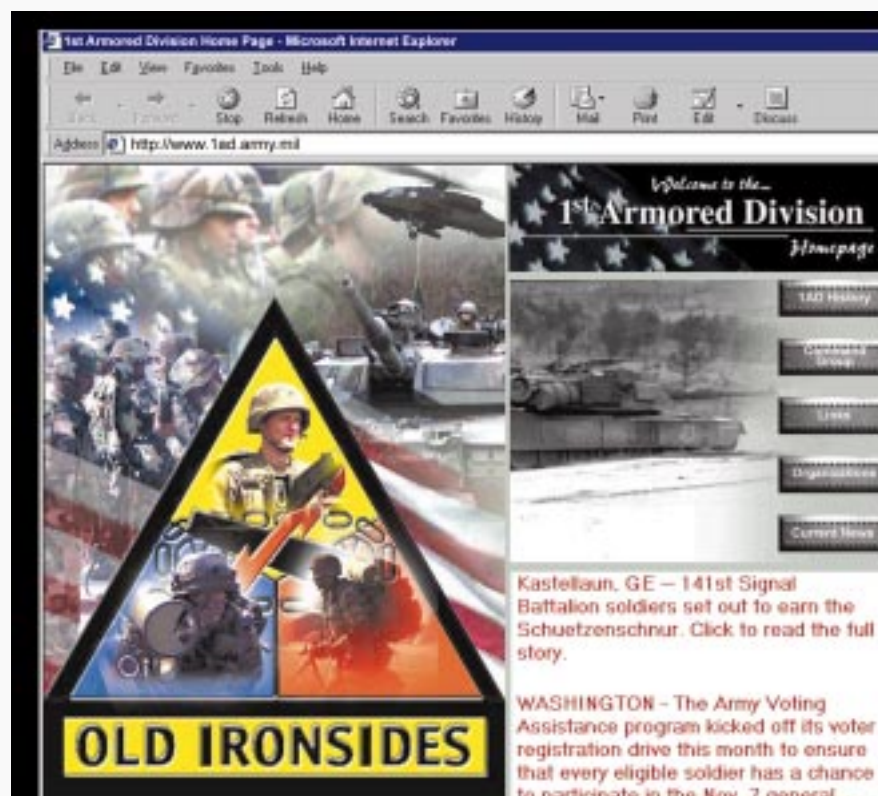


The 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division will observe Hispanic-American Heritage Month from 15 September to 15 October 2000. Units and communities will observe this event through activities based on this year's theme: *"Children, Our Hope for the Future."*

The acts and achievements of Hispanic men and women fill the annals of American History and serve today as role models. Two such role models are Antonia Novello and Roberto Clemente. Antonia Novello was the first woman and the first Hispanic-American to serve as Surgeon General of the United States, while Roberto Clemente was the first Hispanic-American to enter the Baseball Hall of Fame. This celebration increases our awareness of the achievements of these and all Hispanic Americans and recognizes their part in the development of our great nation.

Hispanic heritage continues to flourish in American society. The deep pride in a rich language and culture displayed by those of Hispanic descent and their traditional sense of family, justice and compassion nurtures the American dream and ideal. Our division is very fortunate to have a number of soldiers, civilians, and family members of proud Hispanic heritage. As we celebrate this month, I urge each of you to recognize and appreciate the contributions of Hispanic Americans to both our Armed Forces and to American society.

IRON SOLDIERS! DIGNITY AND RESPECT!



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By Sheila R. Garrett  
414<sup>th</sup> BSB Public Affairs Office

Two soldiers stationed in Büdingen, 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Squadron, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment, were presented with the highest honor in the state of Hessen, the Hessentag Award, for rendering lifesaving aid to three German nationals.

The presentation took place in June near Fulda at the Hessen State Fair.

Spc. Anthony Perkins and Spc. Antoine Josserand, both combat medics, were driving back from Rhein Main Air Base last June when a car traveling at an excessive speed left the road.

"We were in the slow lane driving and approaching a curve when a car in front of us fish-tailed and hit the guardrail," Perkins explained. "The [impact] sent the car across our lane and over another guardrail and the car just disappeared," he said.

The car was out of sight because it slipped down an embankment that Perkins and Josserand said was approximately 16 feet below the autobahn. "We stopped the car, pulled over, got whatever first aid materials we had and ran down to the crash site," Perkins reflected.

"Truckers were the first on the scene. They were just pointing to us, 'Down there, down there,' telling us that the car was down in this swampy sewage ditch," Josserand said.

What the combat medics found at the resting place of the automobile was an alarming site. "We saw one casualty had been ejected from the vehicle. He had multiple fractures. You've seen a scarecrow. If you set him

down, his legs go whatever which way. That is what this guy looked like," Perkins explained.

"He had fractured legs, fractured ribs," Josserand said. "Another guy was [physically] fine, he had been wearing his seat belt," he said.

Although one of the passengers was able to escape the car, he became more of a hindrance than help. "He tried assisting us, but he was in shock. We had to calm him down," Perkins said.

As the scene unfolded into greater chaos, Perkins and Josserand noticed the driver was pinned in the car. "The driver was drowning," Perkins said, "He was upside down, still in his seatbelt, with his head in this swampy, muddy water."

Without hesitation, the two rescuers waded into the elbow-deep muddy water and worked to free the driver. "We got his head out of the water. In the meantime, we had trouble getting the door open, so I ran up to try to get a crowbar from one of the truckers who had stopped along the side the autobahn," Perkins said.

As Josserand held the driver's head out of the marshy water, Perkins learned that the truckers had nothing that could assist them in prying the driver's door open. "You would think a trucker would have a crowbar," Perkins said with exasperation.

"It was a four-door, so Josserand somehow broke the seat and we pulled the driver out of the rear door," Perkins said.

Once their patients were all accounted for, the challenge was to stabilize them, using only the contents of a standard first aid kit and their Army skills. Perkins and Josserand began performing their

ABCs. "Airway, Breathing, and Circulation, those are standard combat lifesaving skills," Perkins said.

Once the driver was freed from the wreckage, he was able to breathe on his own, but the passenger that neglected to buckle up presented another challenge.

*"For a U.S. soldier,  
this is the highest  
award he can receive  
from the state of  
Hessen."*

Ingrid Roux, chief of Host Nations,  
V Corps Headquarters



Minister President of Hessen, Roland Koch, presents the Hessentag Award to Spc. Anthony Perkins and Spc. Antoine Josserand during the Hessen State Fair in June.

# Soldiers risk all, save two lives

"We had to improvise to stabilize the guy that had been thrown from the car," said Josserand. "I held his head and opened his airway so he could breathe and kept him still until the [emergency medical technicians] arrived," he said.

Perkins and Josserand estimated the EMTs arrived 15 minutes after the accident occurred. "They told us we had done a good job," Josserand said. "And then they took off with the patients," Perkins said.

After such an event, the two say they would not change a thing. "I am glad I had the medical training. If I didn't, I wouldn't have known what to do," Josserand said.

The two told the *Herald Union* they had tried to follow up on the accident in an attempt to learn the condition of the victims. "We went to the police station in Langenselbold, but it was like we hit a brick wall. They just said, 'We don't know,'" Perkins said.

Even though they do not know how the patients fared, the soldiers know their lifesaving acts were recognized.

"For a U.S. soldier, this is the highest award he can receive from the state of Hessen," said Ingrid Roux, chief of Host Nations, V Corps Headquarters in Heidelberg. "This award is for the German military, border police and all allied forces. The award ceremony was the featured attraction of the fair," Roux said.

"Memos go out at the beginning of the year inviting U.S. military commanders to nominate soldiers that have gone above and beyond the call of duty and have in some way helped further German-American relations and does not have to be a lifesaving effort," Roux said.

One year after the accident, Perkins and Josserand were given their Hessentag awards, because of a glowing nomination submitted by their commander, Capt. Steve Rosson, Headquarters Headquarters Troop, 1-1 Cav.

The dignitaries in attendance at the ceremony honoring the Hessentag awardees included the Maj. Gen. Charles C. Campbell, U.S. Consulate General; Maj. Gen. Buergener, the commanding general of the 5<sup>th</sup> Panzer Division (WBK4); and Roland Koch, Minister President for the state of Hessen.







**Greg Flora**

Hanua – Father is Staff Sgt. Robert Flora, 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment

“I’m helping with this (moral) video, and helping my mom watch the boys while she goes out to the airfield to help with the care packages for the soldiers. I send my dad stuff...candy, letters, cards...and movies. [When dad comes home] we’re gonna make a bunch of posters and stuff...and maybe go to the airfield!”



**Kelly Redmond**

Hanua – Husband is 1st Lt. Stanley Redmond, 2nd Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment

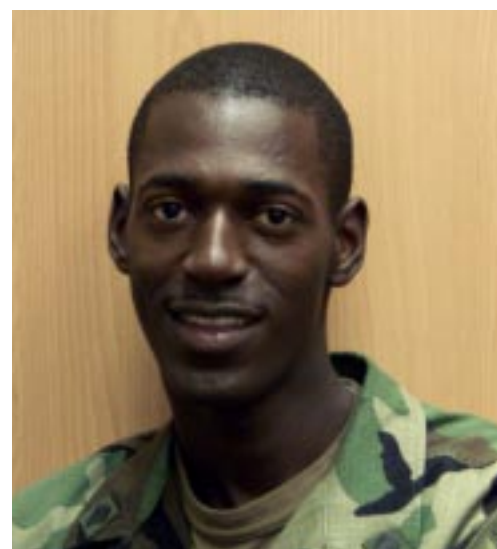
“Our Family Support Group Coffee participants get together pretty much every month and we have good turn-outs. A lot of us (went) to the moral video. We stay together...we talk to everybody...our companies are pretty close groups. I handwrite letters almost everyday [to my husband], and e-mail him three or four times a day.”



**Staff Sgt. Brian Smith**

Freidburg - Company C, 1st Battalion, 37th Armor Regiment, Rear Detachment commander

“The rear detachment makes sure that the families are all right, and we keep everything running smoothly. We make sure that the soldiers down there get the supplies that they need. So far, I’ve sent 150 boxes of supplies down to my company.”



**Spc. Jermain Johnson**

Bad Kreuznach - HHC, 1st AD, G2 Terrain Team

“I’m a part of the 526th/518th Engineer Detachment at HHC, 1st AD. I’m a topographic analyst. My section works in support of the KFOR mission in Kosovo. We provide essential topographic terrain products that assist the KFOR commanders in tactical decisions. The people that we support haven’t met us yet, but our hats are off to the commander and all of my fellow soldiers.”

# 40th Engineers *for* KFOR Builds Foundation ROTATION

Story and photos by

Capt. Michael S. Weis, Deputy PAO

FREJUS, France – While sending the first of its two brigade-sized elements into Kosovo to continue to build the peace, the 1st Armored Division had already begun preparing soldiers for its next rotation in May.

Located 20 minutes from the Mediterranean at Camp Le Coq, the complex of buildings and computers comprised the network of 22 different European nations that underwent “Cooperative Lantern,” a Partnership for Peace exercise held amongst the rolling limestone mountains, hills, vineyards and stucco mansions in France’s Cote d’Azur region.

Assigned to participate in the exercise in southern France, the 40th Engineer Battalion paved the road to success in preparation for their upcoming mission in Kosovo this coming December.

Cooperative Lantern looked similar to a U.S.-run Warfighter computer exercise. It combined computers and a script covering different situations arising between the fictitious former warring factions, such as mass-grave discoveries, violations of the zone of separation, terrorist activities and environmental sabotage. Each situation challenged the leadership to get all participating nations to work together toward a solution and bring peace to the fictitious former warring factions, Gondor and Runivia.

The 22 nations comprised two peace-keeping brigades in the exercise scenario.

Each of the two brigade-sized com-

mand posts for the exercise was set in new, French-made, command and control containers. Each container had built-in desks, map-board walls, phones, computers and communications equipment.

The 40th Engineers role-played as a U.S. Engineer battalion assigned to participate in enforcing the peace between two new territories that had split apart under a United Nations Security Resolution.

Their mission was to support the commander of the Multi-National Brigade - North, run by the Dutch 43rd Mechanized Infantry Brigade commander, Brig. Gen. Herman Bokhoven.

The importance of working in this multi-national peace-support environment paid off according to the 40th Engineer commander, Lt. Col. John D. Jordan. “We’re seeing how other nations work and what their capabilities are,” Jordan said. “We’ve also showed our capabilities and built their confidence in us. We have a great corps of NCOs who carry a lot of responsibility and take charge...very capable.”

Explaining his goals in the exercise and how they would support Bokhoven, Jordan stated, “First, we wanted to get good training and showcase our capabilities.” Those capabilities included engineer recon, engineer operations and terrain products to support the commander. “It keeps our skills sharp,” added Jordan.

“This exercise gave me a headstart for KFOR 2B,” said Staff Sgt. Shawn A. Harris, an intelligence specialist for the 40th Engineers. “It also gave me a good foundation for understanding

peace support operations.” Harris added that, “U.S. enlisted soldiers can do great work, tough work and it was a good opportunity for team building.”


Maj. David A. Masterson, the 40th Engineer Battalion operations officer, started planning for the exercise in August and attended planning conferences in October and February. The 40th brought a German Army partnership officer, 1st Lt. Michael Trees, of the German 320th Pioneer Battalion with them to participate in the exercise. “We thought it would make a great show of partnership and it added another dimension to the training,” said Masterson.

Having already served once in Kosovo, Trees worked in the 40th Engineer cell helping in operations. “I understand PSO exercises and they reinforce experiences I had in Kosovo,” stated Trees.

Besides encapsulating six months of events into six days of training for the exercise, Cooperative Lantern was the first 24-hour PFP exercise. “We behaved exactly as the battalion would in any 24-hour operation,” said Masterson.

The 40th Engineer crew, 50 percent officers and 50 percent enlisted soldiers, had the opportunity to work with Slovenian, Latvian, Dutch, Italian, Austrian, Belgian, Bulgarian, Danish, Romanian, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, German, Hungarian, Czech, Estonian, French, Lithuanian, Moldovan, Polish, Slovakian, Swiss and British soldiers.

“This was a great experience, and we’ll have a chance to see these sorts of things in the mission rehearsal exercise in the fall and later in Kosovo,” said Masterson.



Soldiers of the twenty-two nations that participated in Cooperative Lantern carry their respective flags during the opening ceremonies at Camp Le Coq, France.





# 1-35

## Prepares for Kosovo

Story and photos by Spc. Amanda M. Domaszek and Pvt. Benjamin Z. Etzioni

GRAFENWOHR TRAINING AREA – Safety and tank crew cohesion were the main goals as soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment went through gunnery exercises at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, during the final two weeks of July.

The soldiers completed their training in preparation for their upcoming mission in Kosovo by going through a variety of graded and timed combat simulation exercises as well as a live fire exercise.

“This is the capstone of the tankers’ training,” said 2nd Lt. Christopher D. Lheureux, platoon leader for 3rd Platoon, Company C. “We are out here to certify our crews and to prepare them for any eventuality that they might encounter when we go to Kosovo.”

According to Staff Sgt. Lamar Leitzke, a platoon

sergeant from Company C, many of the soldiers are new and in need of the training.

“The crews are mainly brand new with some experienced tankers mixed in,” said Leitzke. “They need to be brought up to speed and to standard. That is what these gunnery exercises are for. They help foster unit and crew cohesion.”

While a lot of the training was geared towards preparation for Kosovo, safety is always the highest priority.

“Safety was stressed from the first day throughout our time here,” said 2nd Lt. Craig C. Colucci, platoon leader from 2nd Platoon, Company C. “During the gunnery exercises we need to make sure that our skills are up to par. Attention to detail is very important in that we need to make sure all the crews do everything they would do in a real patrol situation.”

A platoon of soldiers conducted a live-fire counter attack exercise July 27. The exercise tested the platoon’s ability to engage moving and stationary targets during the day and with limited visibility during a tactical operation.

“This was a good exercise because it allowed the soldiers to utilize live fire, which is something that few units get the opportunity to do,” said Capt. Jerry J. Thomas, Company B commander, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment.

The two-day exercise covered approximately three kilometers and consisted of a day and night run. According to Thomas, one of the biggest challenges the platoon faced was the weather. Rain slowed down communications and fog did not allow them to engage night fire.

“Proficiency is very important in this exercise because it tests the platoon’s ability to go into combat,” said Thomas.

It was the last high-intensity conflict exercise conducted before the unit transitioned the training for their peace-support operation.

The peace-support operation training will focus on patrols, riot controls, searches and conducting reconnaissance. They will begin their mission in Kosovo in December.

*“This was a good exercise because it allowed the soldiers to utilize live fire, which is something that few units get the opportunity to do.”*

Capt. Jerry J. Thomas, Company B commander, 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment.





# The Old Ironside's Museum

**Story and Photos By  
Spc. Amanda M. Domaszek**

BAUMHOLDER - One place to gain knowledge of the 1st Armored Division is at the Old Ironsides Historical Museum located in Building #8104 at Smith Barracks in Baumholder.

The museum houses over 3,000 artifacts in a 17,000 square-foot building surrounded by more than 50 tanks and artillery pieces. When entering the museum, visitors have the opportunity to view an introductory video. The video gives visitors a detailed history to set the mood for what they are about to see in the museum and how the division is currently organized and what it has to offer. Walking down the first hallway, one can view the 1st Armored Division's changes to include a tank replica display case and photos of all the 1st Armored Division's past commanding generals.

Emersion exhibits are

found along the historic trail. These exhibits recreate a war-time setting using props such as sandbags, barbed wire, iron gates and deteriorating walls. "Many visitors are amazed by the fact that to get the vehicles inside, they were broken down and reassembled piece by piece in the museum," says Peterson.

Visitors then proceed through detailed chronological and historical displays of the 1st Armored Division viewing donated artifacts such as uniforms, weapons and personal gear from the different campaigns and missions that the division supported.

"One of the museum's most unique attractions is the M3 General Lee tank, weighing 60,000 pounds, which was the first medium tank that the division used in combat in Africa. They are very rare today," said Dan Peterson, museum director.

"I was extremely impressed by Mr. Peterson's knowledge and



The Honorable Charles A. Blanchard of the General Council, Department of the Army (third from left) tours the Old Ironsides Historical Museum in Baumholder, Germany, with the museum's director, Dan Peterson (second from left)

the comprehensive collection of the 1st AD's artifacts," said Maj. Robb Jefferson, who is assigned to the 1st Armored Division Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

The museum staff, which consists of two civilians and assigned soldiers, is currently working on the most recent addition to the museum, the Anzio Beach exhibit.

"Over the last five years the museum has really come a long way. We are constantly receiving complements on the progress of the ongoing renovations and how well the museum is laid out," said Sgt. Mark D. Smith, one of the soldiers assigned to the museum. In recent years, the museum added carpeting, new display cases, more realistic mannequins, and installed new computers that enabled them to create better graphic displays.

"Renovation of the museum is a continuous process because Iron Soldiers are making history everyday," said Peterson.

The museum staff is also in the process of putting together a Task Force Eagle exhibit, dated December 1995 to December 1996, that captures the Bosnia Peace keeping mission. Donations for this and all exhibits are always welcome and appreciated.

The museum staff offers tours, helps with research in the research library, and when time permits, they give battlefield tours. According to Peterson, soldiers can also use the museum to familiarize themselves with foreign weapons and vehicles so they know what they might be facing.

The museum is open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information on group tours, please call Dan Peterson at DSN 485-6349 or CIV 0678-366349 or on the museum's website at [www.baumholder.army.mil/museum/museum.htm](http://www.baumholder.army.mil/museum/museum.htm).



Three Iron Soldiers plan their unit's next operation in this World War I display. In recent years, more realistic mannequins have been added to the museum's exhibits.



# Regular Stakes Doubles as Kosovo Train-up

Story and photos by Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava  
222nd BSB Public Affairs Office

IDAR OBERSTEIN - Each year, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment runs a high-stakes competition to determine who has bragging rights as the best rifle squad in the battalion.

Nine squads took part in this year's event, known as Regular Stakes, in which the stakes are anything but regular.

Regular Stakes is a competition among the rifle squads that measures the ability of squad leaders and team leaders to lead their soldiers.

The competition is called "Regular" because the soldiers of 1-6 Infantry are "Regulars by God," and "stakes" because of its competitive nature.

When it was all over, 1st Squad, 1st Platoon from Company A, 1-6 Infantry was selected as the top squad in the battalion.

This year, the competition doubled as "train-up" for 1-6 Infantry's upcoming deployment to Kosovo.

It all began with the Army Physical Fitness Test at "0 dark 30", and then it was off to the obstacle course where each squad teamed up to complete 17 stations as one unit.

Weapon disassembly and reassembly and weapon qualification followed. After that, they faced a 12-mile foot march under modestly warm conditions. A brief break after the march to rehydrate, count foot blisters and sores, and it was off to the various hands-on activities.

There, they conducted tasks similar to those performed for Common Task Training and Expert Infantry Badge qualification, but it wasn't over. The weary and dusty soldiers ended the day with a written exam that gauged their mental ability and concentration.

After piling into Black Hawk helicopters at the Idar-Oberstein Airport the following day, the nine squads were flown to their objectives southwest of Baumholder near St. Wendel, where they



Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment negotiate the weave during the obstacle course portion of the Regular Stakes competition.

completed the tactical portion of the competition. Under the watchful eye of the land owners who agreed to allow 1-6 Infantry to use their land, they performed tactical tasks ranging from a raid to issuing an operation order.

One by one, the squads completed their objective and radioed the choppers for extraction from the site.

The blast from the Black Hawk rotors flattened the knee high grass as they approached the landing site and quickly settled on the ground.

The soldiers scurried on board, and within seconds, each squad was whisked back to Idar-Oberstein.

"We set the objectives up pretty close to what they might encounter in Kosovo," said Command Sgt. Maj. William Gunter, 1-6th Infantry.

The objectives were set up on private property to increase the realism of the tasks they needed to accomplish. But the 501st Aviation Battalion did not just fly in and drop soldiers off.

Much preparation went into setting up these scenarios that put soldiers on the ground for about 30 minutes.

"We did a lot of work on this with

the St. Wendel county commissioner, the mayor, range control and the land owners," said Staff Sgt. Cash Freeman, 1-6 Infantry operations NCO. "They've all helped us extensively to pull this off."

Gunter echoed Freeman's words and added, "This exercise accomplished three things. The scenarios in the tactical portion are similar to what they may face when they deploy to Kosovo in December, so it provides soldiers with the training they need to accomplish their mission. The competition aspect of this exercise helps determine the readiness of the men and, of course, we select the best squad in the battalion based on the results. The air support we received from the 501st Aviation Battalion helps the pilots and crew members prepare for their upcoming deployment to Kosovo."

Gunter summed up the exercise with, "All the training the soldiers receive here, in Grafenwoehr, and after Grafenwoehr will start coming together so they'll be a well-honed and well-oiled machine by the time they go into the Balkans."



# Air Defense

## Fires Stinger

Story and photos by  
Spc. Jon Christofferson  
3rd Bde. Public Affairs Office

With a squeeze of the trigger, the round slides violently out of the tube and arcs smoothly toward the sky, honing in on its target. As the missile nears the target, the gunner and the crowd wait to see the round intercept and destroy its target.

Batteries C, 1st Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery and 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery, recently found a way to train, entertain and show family members what they do.

During training July 7, family members and friends of the soldiers from both Fort Riley ADA batteries were given the opportunity to see the equipment soldiers use and also see them in action.

Guests were provided the opportunity to view static displays such as the Stinger anti-aircraft weapon, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, and one of the drone airplanes used as target for the missile teams.

The purpose of the displays according to 1st Lt. Richard Downs, executive officer for Battery C, 4th Bn., 3rd ADA, were to show the

families the equipment the soldiers use.

"We want the families to see what the soldiers are going to be using out there," said Downs. "That way they understand what's going to happen."

After family members and friends had an opportunity to learn about the equipment, the show began.

Over the hill, the sounds of two Bradley Fighting Vehicle engines roared to life. Shortly after the thunderous roar, the Bradleys came over the hill stopping at a predetermined firing point, enabling the Stinger crew to exit from the back of the vehicle.

Poised with weapon in hand, the crew eagerly awaited the arrival of their target. The target for this mission was a remote-controlled airplane. Downs explained to onlookers the purpose of using the airplane.

"Sometimes we use what's called a Ballistic Aerial Target," said Downs. "It's a missile which is fired into the air emitting a heat signature

which is similar to an airplane's. The heat signature is important because the Stinger is a heat-seeking missile.

The airplane is beneficial because it mimics the flight patterns of a real airplane."

The small engine of a remote-controlled airplane doesn't put out anywhere near as much heat as an enemy jet would, so flares are strapped to the rear of the aircraft to make it more realistic.

As the aircraft moves through the sky, mimicking the flight of an enemy pilot, the gunner aims the weapon at it and waits to hear a tone indicating that the missile is locked on. When the tone sounds, the gunner raises the weapon slightly higher than the target. Raising the weapon compensates for the missile's engine, said Downs.

"The missile is shot out of the weapon 17 feet before the engine comes on. This is so the gunner

doesn't get overwhelmed by the exhaust of it," said Downs.

"The missile drops slightly before the engine engages, that's why they raise the weapon before firing it," he said.

After the weapon is raised, the fireworks begin.

The Stinger launches its intercept path towards the enemy as the crowd cheers, hoping the two will come together in a destructive meeting.

The cheers intensify when, with a flash and an explosion, the two objects meet each other, marking destruction of the target.

Downs said that both of the batteries get the opportunity to conduct a live fire each year, but doing it together is a twist.

"Normally one battery fires at National Training Center and the other one conducts this exercise," Downs said. "This year we are firing together . . . I'm sure we'll learn from each other."



# 2nd BDE holds first Pre-Ranger Course

Story and Photos By  
Ignacio "Iggy" Rubalcava  
222nd BSB Public Affairs Office

Privates, sergeants and lieutenants recently underwent an intense 12-day Pre-Ranger Course to see if they have what it takes to challenge the six-week Army Ranger School.

The course was the first of its kind offered by Baumholder's 2nd Brigade.

In the instructors' living quarters on day 12 of the course, a weary eyed but focused Sgt. 1st Class George Hotaling, Company A, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, explained, "The purpose of the course is to familiarize the soldiers with Ranger School itself. It's a good stepping stone that introduces them to what they should expect," A Ranger himself, Hotaling and a cadre of five other Ranger qualified instructors led the soldiers through 2nd Brigade's first Pre-Ranger Course.

The 1st Infantry Division usually offers a Pre-Ranger Course but since the division was deployed, Baumholder's 2nd Brigade stepped in to put soldiers through the rigorous 12-day challenge. The actual Ranger School lasts 62 days and is divided into three phases. "In the Pre-Ranger Course we try to cover a little of each phase in just 12 days. The main thing we're concentrating on is sleep deprivation and keeping them motivated throughout the course," he said. "Unfortunately, since we're limited in instructors, we are undergoing a little sleep deprivation ourselves."

Hotaling looked at a second instructor sitting on the edge of his bunk. His elbows rest on his knees and his hands cover his face as he talks to a soldier on the bunk next to him. The soldier is busy loading an M-16 clip with blank ammunition. As the rounds click into place, the instructor draws his hands down past his eyes, as if to keep them open, and begins briefing the day's agenda to the soldier who will assist with the training.

Hotaling then dons his rucksack

and heads out the door to start the training day. In his wake are two other soldiers and a medic.

Outside, Hotaling lights a training explosive that rocks the compound, signaling the start of the final training day. The 30 remaining soldiers scurry out of their quarters and fall into formation. Forty-three soldiers began the course but the initial five-mile run in less than 40 minutes and a rigorous physical fitness test quickly weeded out those who lacked the motivation to continue.

For the 30 remaining soldiers intent on finishing the course, training begins with a brief platoon raid scenario near the compound, after which they climb aboard two five-and-a-half ton trucks and drive to the training area. At the drop-off point, they jump out of their vehicles and, together with two instructors, they disappear into the trees. It's their final day of training, but it will be an "all nighter," followed by graduation -- hopefully.

This course is mandatory for soldiers that want to attend the Army Ranger Course. For 12 days, soldiers are tested on their physical and mental stamina with things like sleep deprivation, a physical fitness test, combat water survival, land navigation, a five-mile run in less than 40 minutes, and a 12 mile road march in three hours with a 40-pound rucksack.

The Pre-Ranger Course affords soldiers the opportunity to develop and prove themselves under rugged conditions. It is stress oriented and develops within the student the ability to function under heavy mental and physical stress, according to Sgt. 1st Class Darren G. Johnson, a former Ranger School instructor who helped develop the course for 2nd Brigade.

"The course focuses on realistic tactical training with leaders going through the deliberate planning and execution phases. Each student is evaluated in different leadership positions a minimum of three times throughout the course," said Johnson.

Leadership positions consist of administrative roles of platoon leader and

platoon sergeant. Tactical evaluations are platoon leader, platoon sergeant, squad leader and team leader. These positions are rotated during planning, movement and before actions on the objective.

The course includes classroom instruction and field exercises and averages 18.5 hours of training per day.

After the course, Command Sgt. Maj. William Gunter, 1-6th Infantry Battalion, said, "It was very professionally run, it was very good training and there was good feedback from the soldiers that went through."

Gunter added that he could not see any areas where improvements were needed. "There might be some small areas that we might want to look at for the next time but for the most part, it was up and beyond my expectations," he said. "The course definitely hit home to the soldiers and they're all looking forward to hopefully having another one here soon," he said.

Conducting another Pre-Ranger Course will depend on the brigade's training schedule and the upcoming deployment that most 2nd Brigade soldiers are gearing up for. "We're hoping, maybe before the KFOR deployment, to be able to run one," said Gunter.



Soldiers participating in the Pre-Ranger Course provide fire support during a platoon raid scenario.



# Personnel soldiers hone tactical skills

By Deborah L. Powers  
410<sup>th</sup> BSB Public Affairs Office

BAD KREUZNACH - A three-part field training exercise tested personnel soldiers' ability to serve customers, conduct force-on-force patrolling and handle casualty reports in a deployed environment.

Seventy soldiers from 90th Personnel Services Battalion detachments — Det. B which serves Bad Kreuznach and Dexheim, Det. A from Baumholder and Kaiserslautern's Det. C — converged at Kuhberg Local Training Area for a combined field training exercise July 10 through 14.

During the week, Bad Kreuznach and Dexheim customers were served from frame tents across from Outdoor Recreation's Kuhberg Pavilion (Training Area 6). The task was more difficult than it appeared, according to Capt. Douglas Gray, Det. B commander.

"Not only did we have to provide our own power, but we also had to have computer connectivity to four different Army-wide computer systems which control personnel management," Gray said.

Laptops — complete with Internet access and e-mail capabilities — as well as four printers, a fax machine and four telephone lines were installed up on Kuhberg to handle everything from promotions to passports to evaluations.

"Our normal functions that we do every day in a hard billets we could do here," said Spc. Sabrina Bannister, information management clerk for Det. B. "Anything we needed to do telephone-wise, fax-wise or computer-wise we could do here with no disruptions in service," she added.

The fact that it was a combined FTX allowed the personnel soldiers to cross-train.

"We were able to share information in the work tent as far as how we do business," said 1st Lt. Benjamin Rex, executive officer and acting chief military personnel for Det. B. "When you work back in garrison you don't necessarily have a chance to concentrate on some of the areas outside your regular, daily job," he said.

"And all of this is stuff they'd have to deal with if they deploy, especially promotions and casualty reporting — those are realistic deployment-type situations," added Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tamara Thomas, chief of the military personnel for Det. A.

Overall, customers gave the service a thumb's up.

"I came straight to the desk here; I didn't have to wait on anything," said Staff Sgt. Warren Close, a soldier from the 141st Signal Battalion, who stopped by the customer service tent to update some records. "And I got to see what they do in the field; this is an eye-opener for me," he added.

Although personnel units are not intended for direct combat, they're responsible for their own protection.

"In today's world of peacekeeping and support operations, this becomes key because the threat may be right in the village next door," Gray said.

To help the soldiers polish their tactical skills, they engaged in tournament style force-on-force patrolling during the five-day exercise.

Armed with M-16A2 rifles and machine guns equipped with Multiple-Integrated Laser Engagement Systems and wearing the MILES gear, teams went head to head as smoke billowed and artillery simulators exploded around them.

While the teams' objective was to inflict maximum "casualties", the exercises were also meant to foster a competitive spirit, Gray said.

"What we wanted to do here is not to turn them into expert infantrymen, but make them better tactical soldiers today than they were yesterday and at the same time, better personnel soldiers," he said.

Those who took part in the exercise believed both goals were accomplished.

"It challenged soldiers of lower rank to take a step up and become a leader when or if the team leader was injured or died. It also made [us] more proficient at our combat tasks and our war-time mission," said Spc. Patrice Chapman of Baumholder's Det. A.

After all, the better trained they are to perform their missions in a deployed environment, the better they'll be able to serve those they support.

"The stress and strain of deployment separation will be somewhat reduced for soldiers and families if we know how to do our jobs both here and downrange," Gray said. "That's one less thing they'll have to worry about."







*U.S.S. Constitution/Old Ironsides, Boston Harbor, Summer 2000*

Soon after the activation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division at Fort Knox on July 15, 1940, its first commander, Major General Bruce R. Magruder, began searching for an appropriate nickname for the division. From a painting of the USS Constitution he noted its nickname, "Old Ironsides". Impressed with the parallel between the early development of the tank and the Navy's "Old Ironsides" spirit of daring and durability he decided the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division should also be named "Old Ironsides." Thus a famous warship of the US Navy and the famous 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division of the US Army are historically and appropriately welded by name "Old Ironsides."